

27 February 2015

Council On Teaching  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242

Selection Council:

It is my pleasure to send my recommendation for Stephanie Tsank in her application for "The Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award".

Last fall I had the pleasure of having Stephanie as my instructor for Business Rhetoric. Stephanie set herself apart from other teaching assistants that I have had as instructors through purposeful lesson plans, intriguing discussion questions and applicable assignments. Her assignments married the key components of rhetoric to the professional and creative aspects of the business world to give her students a new perspective on persuasion in professional settings.

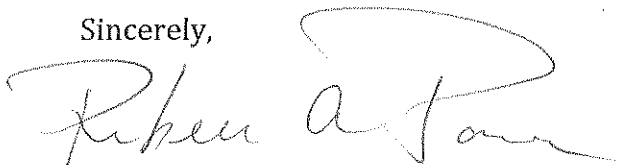
Stephanie always made herself available during her office hours and was extremely flexible with her schedule to find time to offer help to students outside of those specified hours as well. I met with her multiple times in both settings to discuss essays and speeches and gain a deeper understanding of material.

I believe that Stephanie has immense potential for future growth as an instructor. Her thought-provoking assignments demonstrate a desire to provide meaningful education to students and help them become critical thinkers and articulate speakers in the work place. Stephanie truly cares about the future of her students and prepares them well not only for other classes at the University of Iowa but also for their careers.

As Rhetoric is a general education credit, it has the potential to be very routine, but Stephanie turned this class into one where I really believed I learned and grew as a student and writer.

Should you have any other questions for me, feel free to contact me via email at [rebecca-paras@uiowa.edu](mailto:rebecca-paras@uiowa.edu).

Sincerely,



Rebecca A. Paras

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR STEPHANIE TSANK

It is with pleasure that I recommend Stephanie Tsank for winning Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

Stephanie Tsank, a responsible and enthusiastic teaching assistant, puts her great efforts on teaching Rhetoric during the summer of 2014.

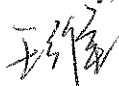
Last summer, I enrolled her Rhetoric class and learned not only how to be a good writer and speaker, but also the positive attitudes I should have for the rest of my academic life. As a student who is afraid of writing and giving speech in front of people, I improved a lot after her assistant. She encourages me, help me with my writing skills and gives me tips about giving speech. During class, Stephanie Tsank proposed many interesting topics for class discussions. She cares about our thoughts, inspires us, and really be part of our group to have conversations with us.

One moment I can still remember that made me change a lot. During our final project, she used her after-class time to review our research papers individually. After I told her it was the first time wrote a research paper and how nervous I was to let her look through my paper, she cheered me up and gave me some advice about evidence arrangement. At the end of the meeting, she proofread one of the sentences that I got frustrated about again and again. Even I wanted to give up, but she insisted on fixing it. And she also taught me how to deal with the situation like that. After that 40 minutes meeting, I felt like I finally found someone to support me on the way of writing. She is the one who taught me to be patient and never give up.

Stephanie Tsank shows her responsibility of being a Rhetoric teaching assistant, and her confidence unconsciously influence me as well.

I would like to be appreciate you most favorite considerations to her and, it would be a great pleasure for me to see her continuing to contribute to Rhetoric. I believe that she will change more students' writing and reading lives. If there is any question regarding to her reference, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Your Sincerely,



Student Wei Wang

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(414) 315-6916  
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Iowa City, IA 52242

Bree Neyland  
English-Philosophy Building Rm. 173  
Iowa City, IA 52240

Dear Ms. Neyland,

I am writing on behalf of Stephanie Tsank. Stephanie was my Rhetoric teacher for the Spring Semester of 2014. Going into second semester of freshman year, I felt like I had a grip on what college was going to be like, but I was nervous for the two English classes that Iowa requires all students to take: Rhetoric, and Interpretation of Literature. I had heard the stories about how challenging both were, and the class I was most worried about Spring Semester was definitely Rhetoric. All of that anxiety diminished after I met Stephanie.

Stephanie handed out the syllabus that first day and gave us a very detailed description of what the class was going to be like. It seemed like quite a lot of work, but she assured us that if we were ever struggling to get all of the material done to communicate with her because she did not want people falling behind and being unable to participate in class discussion. In that first class she also told us that she was going to challenge us in all aspects of the class, not because she wanted us to be miserable but because she wanted to help us grow as students. I firmly believe she helped everyone in my class grow, not only as students but also as people.

In Rhetoric, we read the book *Zeitoun*, by Dave Eggers, while reading that book, our class had some of the most thought-provoking discussions I have ever been a part of, and at the helm of these discussions was Stephanie. She was our guiding light on our path to attempting to make sense of such an intense work. Stephanie is the kind of teacher who motivated you to not only want to go to class, and discuss what you read, but also take it one step further. I became so interested in the main character Abdulrahman Zeitoun, that after I finished reading the book, I went and researched about him and what he is doing now. With a teacher motivating a class like this, class discussions were only further enhanced.

Finally, Stephanie helped me develop my writing skills. Her assignments and papers were both pertinent to the material that was covered but also helpful for all of my classes. Being a history and international relations double major, where I rely heavily on my writing, Stephanie's class was decisive in me becoming a more concise writer. I am confident that Stephanie is one of the best teachers in the rhetoric department. Feel free to contact me at the above address with any follow up questions.

Best,  
Milton Padway